

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 SCCT-01 /072 W

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R 031403Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5771

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL PORT SAID

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 10417

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF SY

SUBJ: PLO- SA'IQA DEVELOPMENTS

1. EMBOFF QUERIED FAHMY AIDE ABOUT PRESS REPORT THAT HANNA BATAHISH (FORMERLY SYG OF SA'IQA) HAS ANNOUNCED ESTABLISHMENT NEW GROUP CALLED "VANGUARDS OF POPULAR LIBERATION WAR". BATAHISH WAS QUOTED AS TELLING PRESS IN BEIRUT AUGUST 2 THAT LEADERS OF NEW GROUP HAD "REVOLTED AGAINST SYRIAN TUTELAGE" AND THAT NEW ORGANIZATION IS TOTALLY INDEPENDENT.

2. FAHMY AID HAD NO INSIDE INFORMATION, BUT HIS SPECULATION MAY BE OF INTEREST. BATHISH, HE CONFIRMED, HAS IN PAST BEEN EXTREMELY CLOSE TO ZUHAYR MUHSIN. SYRIANS HAVE CONNCLUDED THAT MUHSIM IS TOTALLY DISCREDITED AND MUST BE REMOVED. NEW ORGANIZATION MAY, THEREFORE, BE SA'IQA IN NEW DRESS, MASQUERADING AS INDEPENDENT GROUP. ON OTHER HAND, GIVEN
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BATAHISH 'S CLOSENESS TO MUHSIN, THIS MAY BE INTENDED AS

SECOND SYRIAN-DOMINATED PALESTINIAN GROUP. ONLY CERTAIN FACT IS THAT SARG INTENDS SOONER OR LATER TO EASE MUHSIN OUT OF SA'IQA.

3. EMBOFF ALSO ASKED IF Wafa ANNOUNCEMENT THAT QADDUMI AND ABDU RABBU ARE TO BE PLO REPS ON NEW TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE SHOULD BE READ AS CONFIRMATION THAT ARAFAT HAS ACCEPTED DAMASCUS AGREEMENT. REPLY WAS THAT ARAFAT HAD ACCEPTED AGREEMENT FROM MOMENT IT WAS INITIALLED BY QUADDUMI. BROUHAHA HAD BEEN GENERATED SOLELY BY SYRIAN DECISION TACK ON LANGUAGE ABOUT SINAI II IN JOINT COMMIQUE.

4. GIVEN RECENT PROMINENCE OF PLO -FATAH NOTABLE MAJID ABU SHARARA, EMBOFF ASKED IF HE IS NOW TO BE REGARDED AS OFFICIAL PLO SPOKESMAN IN PLACE OF ABU MAYZAR. FAHMY AID SAID ABU MAYZAR RETAINS HIS POSITION, BUT THAT ABU SHARARA, WHO HAS ALWAYS BEEN CLOSE TO ARAFAT, HAS BECOME ARAFAT'S UNOFFICIAL PERSONAL SPOKESMAN. WE SHOULD ASSUME THAT ABU SHARARA SPEAKS ON ARAFAT'S PERSONAL INSTRUCTIONS.
EILTS

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